

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota Guardsmen will be honored at deployment ceremony

STURGIS, S.D. – Soldiers from the South Dakota Embedded Training Team, South Dakota Army National Guard, will be honored during a deployment ceremony at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Riding Hall gymnasium at Fort Meade.

The public is encouraged to attend.

The 16-member unit will deploy for approximately 12 months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and report to Fort Riley, Kan., for a 60-day training period that will focus on specific skills required for the assigned mission of providing training and mentorship to an assigned infantry battalion within the Afghanistan National Army.

In June, the Fort Meade based 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (General Studies), SDARNG, was tasked to provide the pre-mobilization training, administrative and logistical support for the embedded training team. The team is composed of Soldiers from various SDARNG units and organized based on specific individual skill sets and strong leadership traits.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605)431-8753 or Lt. Col. Tim Moran at (605) 737-6455.

NOTE: Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 700 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

More than 200 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are serving in a non-active duty status in South Dakota and continue to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.